

FORM B - BUILDING

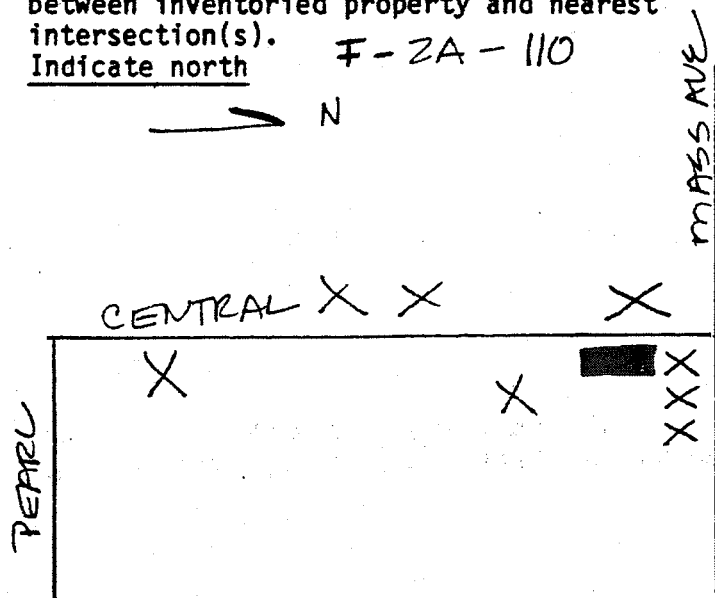
MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
80 BOYLSTON STREET
BOSTON, MA 02116

AREA C FORM NO. 295



Sketch Map: Draw map showing property's location in relation to nearest cross streets and/or geographical features. Indicate all buildings between inventoried property and nearest intersection(s). Indicate north

F-2A-110



UTM REFERENCE _____
USGS QUADRANGLE _____
SCALE _____

Location Acton
Address 275-279 Central Street
Historic Name _____
Present commercial/residential
Original commercial/residential
Description _____
Date circa 1920
Source maps/newsclipping
Style Colonial Revival
Architect unknown

Exterior Wall Fabric clapboards
Outbuildings n/a

Major Alterations (with dates) _____
none
Condition Excellent

Moved no Date _____

Acreage less than one acre

Setting Immediately behind the commercial buildings on Massachusetts Avenue, in the heart of West Acton village.

Recorded by Schuler and Johnson
Organization Acton Historical Commission
Date May 1990

NATIONAL REGISTER CRITERIA STATEMENT (if applicable)

ARCHITECTURAL SIGNIFICANCE Describe important architectural features and evaluate in terms of other buildings within the community.

See Inventory Continuation Form

HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE Explain the role owners played in local or state history and how the building relates to the development of the community.

See Inventory Continuation Form

BIBLIOGRAPHY and/or REFERENCES

Atlases/Maps: 1889; 1892; 1916; 1929.
AHS Newsclipping: "West Acton Growth Years...Fires Prove." (1923).
Phalen, History of The Town of Acton. Fletcher, Acton in History.

INVENTORY FORM CONTINUATION SHEET

MASSACHUSETTS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
Office of the Secretary, Boston

Community: ACTON	Form No: C-295
Property Name: 275-279 Central Street	

Indicate each item on inventory form which is being continued below.

275-279 CENTRAL STREET / ARCHITECTURAL DESCRIPTION:

The two story commercial building at 275-279 Central Street is clad in clapboards and rests on a fieldstone foundation. The flat-roof building consists of three storefronts facing Central Street (west) with residential apartments above. The well preserved Colonial Revival style building is trimmed with a simple molded cornice and narrow corner boards. The structure is separated from the building at 590 Massachusetts Avenue by a brick fire wall.

The first story of the main facade (west) is composed of two recessed entrances flanked by rectangular storefront windows in paneled wood bases, and plain enframements. A multi-light transom (painted), paneled frieze and molded cornice run across the top of the windows. The north opening contains two entrances into two small stores, the south opening into one store. Above the storefronts are evenly placed 6/6 windows, two pairs over the north storefront, and four single windows over the south store. The visible south facade has four 6/6 windows on the second story and a wrapped portion of the storefront window on the first level.

275-279 CENTRAL STREET / HISTORICAL DESCRIPTION:

This commercial building was erected between 1916 and 1929 (Sanborns). In the nineteen teens and early nineteen twenties, Charles H. Mead operated a general store in the adjacent building at 590 Massachusetts Avenue. A 1923 newsclipping alludes to Mr. Mead's recent rebuilding/conversion of a storehouse into stores. It is likely that Mr. Mead incorporated a storehouse on this site (1916) into the present building in the late nineteen teens. Mr. Mead lived at 616 Massachusetts Avenue. He was a well known figure in the community who operated a post office in his adjacent store in the late 19th century. The building at 275-279 Central is currently occupied by an antiques store downstairs and apartments above.

Central Street was known, before 1735, as the "Road from Concord to Stow," then by 1766 as the "County Road." By the time this building was erected, the area around the intersection of Central Street, Arlington (1735), and Massachusetts Avenue (Harvard Turnpike, 1799) was a thriving commercial village that supported surrounding agriculture and local manufacturing. This development was the result of the 1845 arrival of the railroad to West Acton, previously a rural outpost known as the "west part of town."